

Serial No.: 10/706,676

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REMARKS

Claims 1-22 are pending in the application after this amendment adds new claims 21 and 22. Claims 1 and 10 are amended to clarify the subject matter recited therein. No new matter is added by the amendments and new claims, which find support throughout the specification and figures. In particular, the new claims are supported at least at paragraphs 0002 and 0085 of the published application, elements 72 and 73 of figure 1, and elements 130 and 133 of figure 2. Applicants submit herewith a Request for Continued Examination. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the amendments be entered. In view of the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the comments and input from the Examiner and his supervisor in the telephonic conference of January 3, 2006.

Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 6,421,723 to Tawil (hereinafter referred to as Tawil). To be properly rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b), the cited reference must teach each and every feature of the rejected claims. Applicants respectfully traverse.

The previously presented amendment to claim 1 relates to a storage system that includes, *inter alia*, **a plurality of ports, each port being adapted to maintain an LU command queue for each of the LUs**. Applicants believe that this formulation clearly recites that each port has a plurality of command queues, one for each LU. However, in the interest of expediting prosecution, Applicants amend claim 1 to recite "a plurality of ports, each port being adapted to maintain a plurality of LU command queues, each of the plurality of LU command queues corresponding to a respective one of the LUs". As the amendment makes clear, *each port* is adapted to communicate *with all of the LUs*, and has *a command queue for each of the LUs*.

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The Examiner asserts that Tawil discloses the feature of a plurality of ports, each port being adapted to maintain a respective LU command queue for each of the LUs at figure 1 and elements 22 and 26 of Tawil (Office Action; page 2, bottom, to page 3, top). However, as is apparent from figure 1, each of elements 18 and 20 are completely distinct. There is no communication between these elements, except perhaps via storage area network 12. In Tawil, command queue 22 apparently executes, stores, and recalls data in data storage area 24, while command queue 26 apparently executes, stores, and recalls data in data storage area 28. Command queue 22 of Tawil does not appear to communicate directly with data storage 28, and command queue 26 does not appear to communicate directly with data storage 24.

Therefore, each of these command queues does not maintain a command queue for each of these data storage units, and therefore Tawil does not identically disclose or suggest a storage system having a plurality of ports, each port being adapted to maintain a plurality of LU command queues, each of the plurality of LU command queues corresponding to a respective one of the LUs. Since Tawil does not identically disclose or suggest all of the features of claim 1, the rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 2-9, 19, and 20 depend from claim 1 and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1 is allowable.

Claim 10 includes features similar to those discussed above in regard to claim 1, and therefore for at least the same reasons as claim 1 is allowable, claim 10 is also allowable.

Claims 11-18 depend from claim 10 and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 10 is allowable.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the remarks set forth above, this application is believed to be in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,


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